

// 2022 BIRDING CHALLENGE //

Saturday, January 22 - Friday, January 28

Celebrate the abundant and diverse birds overwintering in Coastal Virginia by challenging yourself to get outdoors and observe as many bird species as possible in a day.

This is a Team Competition; teams must have 2-5 people. Cost is \$15 per person, which includes a t-shirt and awards of recognition for winning teams. Only one registration allowed per Team. **When checking out please enter number of seats for number of Team Members.** Birding must be done between Saturday, January 22 and Friday, January 28. See website for complete rules & regulations.

Big Day Division: Observe birds from 12am until 11:59pm on any eligible day. Team does not have to bird for all 24 hours but should bird for more than three.

Mini Day Division: Observe birds for any continuous 3-hour period; must indicate start and stop time on submission.

Backyard Bird Count Division: Observe birds at a private residence for any amount of time, not to exceed 24 hours.
ALL AGES & LEVELS!



// VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES //

REGISTRATION THROUGH ACTIVE NET REQUIRED FOR THESE FREE SESSIONS. ONCE REGISTERED, YOU WILL RECEIVE INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN THIS SESSION THROUGH ZOOM.

E-BIRD BASICS

16 & UP | E-bird is an important tool not only for tracking your birding “life list” but also to contribute to citizen science. This course will teach you how to set up an e-bird account and track species when birding. Recommended for those who are participating in the Birding Challenge but are not familiar with the e-bird platform. Saturday, January 15 • 11am

RU A NATURALIST? LET ME SHOW U HOW INATURALIST

16 & UP | Join Jody Ullmann for a fun, interactive Zoom lesson about the iNaturalist platform. This application allows you to not only capture information about the flora and fauna you see, but to share it with scientists around the world. The best part is that there is a world of experts just waiting to help you identify things that you see. Learn how to download and use the app and get tips and tricks for better cell phone photos. We will learn a little about ongoing citizen science projects that use this app and how you can help collect data. Saturday, January 22 • 9:30am
COASTAL VIRGINIA HAWKWATCHES
16& up - Brian Taber, President of Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (CVWO) and its Raptor Research Team Leader, will present an overview

on CVWO's raptor research. He will discuss CVWO's hawkwatches at Kiptopeke State Park on Virginia's Eastern Shore and at College Creek near Williamsburg. He will also share information about North America's hawkwatches in general and provide a few basic tips on identification of raptors. Tuesday, January 25 • 10am

BIRDING SKILL-BUILDER WORKSHOP

16 & UP | Are you just starting to get into birds? Do you enjoy watching them around your home and neighborhood and wish you knew how to identify them? Then this class is for you! Jessica Ruthenberg, a DWR Watchable Wildlife Biologist, will introduce you to the rewarding hobby of birding and will cover all the basic skills to help you get started. Topics covered will include the seven key identification clues, including the how-tos of observing birds by sight and sound; tips for finding and spotting birds; plus helpful resources and equipment. Participants in this virtual workshop are encouraged to join Jessica in-person to practice these skills in the accompanying optional field session. Recommended for new birders. Thursday, January 27 • 12pm

FROM RAINBOWS TO RATTLES: THE CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT OF SNAKES IN SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA

16 & UP | Southeastern Virginia is home to 24 species of snake, including all three of Virginia's venomous species and others that reach the northern extent of their range. In this presentation, J.D. Kleopfer (State Herpetologist) will present a general overview of their ecology and some of the conservation efforts and management challenges that DWR has been involved with over the past 15 years. Friday, January 28 • 10am

THE BUTCHER BIRD: CONSERVATION OF LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE IN VIRGINIA

16 & UP | Sergio Harding, Nongame Bird Conservation Biologist with the Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR), will introduce you to the Loggerhead Shrike, a charismatic and imperiled bird, affectionately known as “the Butcher Bird.” He will present an overview of the status and natural history of Loggerhead Shrike with a focus on Virginia and will also discuss what DWR and partners are doing to help reverse shrike declines in Virginia and beyond. Friday, January 28 • 1:00pm

2022 WINTER WILDLIFE FESTIVAL CONTRACT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

This Winter Wildlife Festival Contract and Release of Liability (“Contract”) is entered into upon the date signed on the reverse side of this form by those individuals submitting requests for registration as participants (“Participants”) by and between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and participating Federal, State or local agencies and/or corporate sponsors (“Sponsors”).

WHEREAS, “Sponsors” desire to provide an outdoor recreation skills training event to be conducted on January 28-30, 2022 at Princess Anne Recreation Center and other related trip sites. WHEREAS, “Participant(s)” desire to receive instruction in one or more of the activities described in the Winter Wildlife Festival Information Packet/Registration Form which are incorporated herein as is set forth in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions in this Contract plus other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

SECTION 1: REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANT(S). The “Participants” being the same participants that sign below, wish to receive the requested instruction.

SECTION 2: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL NEEDS AND RULES. For the purposes of your safety and to accommodate special needs, “Participants” agree to advise Sponsors of any pregnancy, mental or physical handicap, disability, visual and/or auditory impairment, influence of prescription drugs, illegal drugs and/or alcohol. I understand that as a registered guest, I (we) will not bring or possess ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR ILLEGAL DRUGS onto the premises and understand and agree to abide by the general rules of conduct prescribed for guests of this event and by the facility being used for this event.

SECTION 3: RIGHT TO REFUSE PARTICIPANT(S). Participant(s) understands and agrees that Sponsors may disallow the participation of any Participant(s) which Sponsors believe in their sole judgment may present a safety hazard to other Participant(s), Sponsors’ staff, Sponsors’ invitees and/or to themselves.

SECTION 4: WARNING AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK. Participant(s) understands that outdoor recreation and conservation involves activities where there are inherent elements of risk always present despite all safety precautions. Participant(s) fully accepts any and all such risk(s).

SECTION 5: RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR NEGLIGENCE. Participant(s) hereby, for themselves, their heirs, administrators and assigns, release and discharge sponsors, sponsors’ agent and sponsors’ affiliates from all claim for bodily injury, property damage, death, medical expenses and other financial losses occurring to the Participant(s) during the instruction due to the negligence of the Sponsors, Sponsors’ agents and/or Sponsors’ affiliate.

SECTION 6: INDEMNIFICATION. Participant(s) further agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Sponsors plus their agents and affiliates from any and all costs, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred in defending against claims arising from the negligent acts or omissions, reckless acts or omissions or intentional misconduct by themselves or other Participant(s) during the instruction.

SECTION 7: PUBLICITY. Participant(s) grant permission to Sponsors and their affiliates to publish, in any form, any photographs of Participant(s) while involved in the Instruction and agree that Participant(s) are not due any payment from Sponsors for publishing their photographs.

SECTION 8: ENTIRE AGREEMENT/VIRGINIA LAW/PARTIAL INVALIDITY. This document constitutes the final and entire agreement between Sponsors and Participant(s) concerning the Instruction. This Contract is delivered, executed, accepted and performed exclusively within the Commonwealth of Virginia and shall be interpreted and enforced under the laws of Virginia. In the event that any term or terms of this Contract shall be determined to be illegal or unenforceable all other terms and conditions of this Contract shall remain in full force and in effect.

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE REQUIRED ON ENCLOSED REGISTRATION FORM



FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

TIME	SESSION TITLE	COST	LOCATION
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28 EXCURSIONS & KEYNOTE			
8:30 am-12:30 pm	NEW! The Birds & History of Fort Monroe	\$30	Fort Monroe Visitor Center
10:00 am-12:00 pm	North Landing River Boat Tour – FRI 10am	\$35	Pungo Ferry Boat Launch
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	North Landing River Boat Tour – FRI 1pm	\$35	Pungo Ferry Boat Launch
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	NEW! Service Project – Wildlife on the Line	Free	Stumpy Lake Natural Area
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	NEW! False Cape After Dark	\$10	Back Bay Wildlife Refuge
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Keynote – <i>The Bird Way</i> with Jennifer Ackerman	Free	Zoom

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29 | EXCURSIONS

8:00 am-11:30 am	Chesapeake Bay Birding Boat Trip	\$45	Dockside Marina
8:00 am - 10:00 am	Waterfowl Walk	\$5	Back Bay Wildlife Refuge
8:30 am-10:00 am	NEW! CBBT 4th Island	\$20/car	CBBT VB Office
9:00 am - 11:00 am	NEW! Birding Skillbuilder Field Session	\$5	Pleasure House Point Natural Area
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	North Landing River Boat Tour – SAT 10am	\$35	Pungo Ferry Boat Launch
10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Notable Trees Field Trip - Central Virginia Beach	\$15	Princess Anne Rec Center
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	iNaturalist Field Session	\$5	Brock Environmental Center
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Exploring Virginia’s Seaside Lagoon System	\$40	Oyster Boat Ramp
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Blue Goose Wildlife Tram Tour	\$15	Back Bay Wildlife Refuge
1:00 pm -3:00 pm	North Landing River Boat Tour – SAT 1pm	\$35	Pungo Ferry Boat Launch
2:00 pm - 4:30pm	Virginia Aquarium Whale Watching	\$28/adults \$23/youth	Virginia Aquarium Boat Launch
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	First Landing Nature Walk	\$5	First Landing State Park
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Owl Prowl - Great Neck	\$10	Great Neck Park
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Owl Prowl - First Landing	\$10	First Landing State Park

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30 | EXCURSIONS

8:00 am -11:30 am	Chesapeake Bay Boat Trip	\$45	Dockside Marina
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Birding at Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area	\$15	Princess Anne Wildlife Management Area
8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Blue Goose Birding Tram	\$15	Back Bay Wildlife Refuge
8:30 am - 10:00 am	NEW! CBBT 4th Island	\$20/car	CBBT Office
9:00 am - 11:00 am	NEW! Birds in the City	\$5	Mount Trashmore Park
10:00 am - 12:30 pm	Virginia Aquarium Whales Watching	\$28/adult \$23/youth	Virginia Aquarium Boat Launch
10:00 am - 12:00 pm	North Landing Boat Trip – SUN 10AM	\$35	Pungo Ferry Boat Launch
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	North Landing Boat Trip – SUN 1PM	\$35	Pungo Ferry Boat Launch
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	First Landing Nature Walk	\$5	First Landing State Park
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	NEW! Service Project – Wildlife on the Line	Free	Lake Lawson/Lake Smith
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Notable Tree Field Trip - Northeast Virginia Beach	\$15	Brock Environmental Center

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS | FREE

Saturday, Jan 15	11:00 am	E-bird Basics	Zoom
Saturday, Jan 22	9:30 am	R U a Naturalist? Let me show U how iNaturalist!	Zoom
Tuesday, Jan 25	10:00 am	Coastal Virginia Hawkwatches	Zoom
Thursday, Jan 27	12:00 pm	Birding Basics Skill-builder	Zoom
Friday, Jan 28	10:00 am	From Rainbows to Rattlers	Zoom
Friday, Jan 28	1:00 pm	The Butcher Bird	Zoom

PRESENTED BY VIRGINIA BEACH PARKS & RECREATION // VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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LYNNHAVEN River NOW
Restoring Virginia Beach Waters

THE BIRDS AND HISTORY OF FORT MONROE

NEW! **13 & UP** | Enjoy birding at Virginia's landmark Fort Monroe, also known as "Freedom's Fortress." We will walk the Fort Monroe seawall, a paved walkway that overlooks the confluence of the Chesapeake Bay and James

River to look for migratory waterfowl, sea ducks, and seabirds. In addition to the birding, we will learn about the historical significance of Fort Monroe. If time allows, transportation will be provided to check out additional

birding vantage points around the area, including Fort Monroe's northern end that overlooks Mill Creek and the Hampton River. **Meets at Fort Monroe Visitor & Education**

Center (30 Ingalls Road, Fort Monroe, VA) | \$30

Friday, January 28 • 8:30am-12:30pm

NORTH LANDING RIVER BOAT TOUR

10 & UP | Join Moore to See Expeditions for an in-depth

eco-tour of the marshlands that surround the North Landing River. These areas provide a critical habitat for many species of wintering waterfowl including snow geese, tundra swans and a variety of ducks. This trip will provide many unique opportunities for taking nature photos. All experience levels welcome. Boat is open air, please come dressed for weather.

Pungo Ferry Boat Launch (2272 Old Pungo Ferry Road)

| \$35

Friday, January 28 • 10am-12pm, 1-3pm

Saturday, January 29 • 10am-12pm, 1-3pm

Sunday, January 30 • 10am-12pm, 1-3pm

SERVICE PROJECT: WILDLIFE ON THE LINE

NEW! **13 & UP** | Join us in a service project to give back

chosen by 2021 Mary Reid Barrow Wildlife Advocate Award Recipient, Meredith Broadhurst. This land-based cleanup will take place around the water's edge at Lake Lawson/Lake Smith Natural Area and Stumpy Lake Natural Area. Not only are these two areas some of Virginia Beach's most popular areas for fishing, but they also provide a significant habitat for waterfowl and migratory birds. Volunteers will navigate the wooded and grassy shorelines removing discarded fishing line and debris from waterways and surrounding areas to help prevent wildlife entanglement and

endangerment. All supplies will be provided. Ages 17 and

younger must be with an adult.

Stumpy Lake Natural Area (4797 Indian River Road) | Free

Friday, January 28 • 1-3pm

FESTIVAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Jennifer Ackerman

“THE BIRD WAY”

Friday, January 28, 2022 • 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Virtual, Zoom

16 & UP | The multimedia presentation on ‘The Bird Way’ explores a kaleidoscope of fascinating

behaviors in the bird world through the lens of five arenas of daily activity—communication, work, play, love, and parenting. It tells stories about some of the extraordinary ways that birds do these things and the secret, sophisticated intelligence underlying their behavior. The talk also explores the new discoveries that are overturning many of our old, conventional ideas about how birds live their

lives, describes how science is making some of these astonishing discoveries, and shows the most stunning examples from each section of the book. The talk ranges from the tropical rainforests of eastern Australia and the remote woodlands of northern Japan, to the rolling hills of lower Austria

and the islands of Alaska's Kachemak Bay, and includes audio, video, and spectacular photos by professional photographers. Once registered, you will receive information via email on how to join

this session through Zoom.

FREE; REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Free | **ALL AGES** | Take an open-air tram ride through

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and explore rare sightings. Northern gannet, brant, king eider, harlequin duck, little gull, great cormorant, purple sandpiper and

occasional harbor seals and wintering whales adds to the winter birding sites in Virginia. The presence of the

rarties such as black-tailed gull make this one of the best House Point Natural Area to practice the new birding skills

gained in the accompanying workshop. Binoculars will be available for loan and Jessica will teach you how to use

them. If you have your own and prefer to use those, you are welcome to bring them. Participation in the virtual workshop is not a prerequisite for this field session, but is encouraged. Recommended for new birders. **Pleasure House Point**

WATERFOWL WALK

12 & UP | Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge is home

to thousands of ducks, geese and swans each winter. Join us for a one-mile guided walk along the bay as we search for and identify our winter visitors. Binoculars are recommended but not required. Meets at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (4005 Sandpiper Rd.). Recommended for experienced birders. **Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge**

(4005 Sandpiper Rd.) | \$5

Saturday, January 29 • 8-10am

Sunday, January 30 • 10am-12pm, 1-3pm

CHESAPEAKE BAY BIRDING BOAT TRIP

16 & UP | View the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Islands

“up close and personal!” This boat trip offers eye-level views of birds, harbor seals and other wildlife on and around the CBBT islands. This is an excellent opportunity for experienced birders. **Dockside Marina (3311 Shore Drive) | \$45**

Saturday, January 29 • 8-11:30 am

Sunday, January 30 • 8-11:30 am

CHESAPEAKE BAY BRIDGE TUNNEL 4TH ISLAND

NEW! **12 & UP** | The man-made islands of the CBBT that support the bridge provide rest stops for migrating

and wintering birds. The islands can offer unusual or locally rare sightings. Northern gannet, brant, king eider, harlequin duck, little gull, great cormorant, purple sandpiper and

appeal of this unique site. **Fee is per car, additional registration form required by Jan 14 for all participants within each car.** Due to construction this trip will visit the 4th

island only. Bridge tunnel fee will be waived for participants. All experience levels welcome. **Meets at CBBT Virginia Beach Office (2400 Northampton Blvd.) | \$15**

Saturday, January 29 • 8am - 10am

Sunday, January 30 • 8-10am

BIRDING SKILL-BUILDER FIELD SESSION

NEW! **13 & UP** | Join Jessica Ruthenberg, a DWR

House Point Natural Area to practice the new birding skills gained in the accompanying workshop. Binoculars will be available for loan and Jessica will teach you how to use

them. If you have your own and prefer to use those, you are welcome to bring them. Participation in the virtual workshop is not a prerequisite for this field session, but is encouraged. Recommended for new birders. **Pleasure House Point**

Saturday, January 29 • 9-11am

RU A NATURALIST? LET ME SHOW U HOW

NEW! **ALL AGES** | Bring your phone or camera and come

the Zoom workshop and get help using the various features. We will meet at the picnic tables under the Brock Building and go for an easy walk around the property. You need not have taken the Zoom workshop to join us on this plant and animal “safari”. Families are welcome! **Pleasure House Point Natural Area (Brock Environmental Center - 3663 Martin Bay Dr.) | \$5**

Saturday, January 29 • 1-3pm

EXPLORING VIRGINIA'S SEASIDE LAGOON

16 & UP | This boat trip begins in Oyster Harbor on a

shoreside and other water birds, raptors, seals and other interesting wildlife as we make our way toward the barrier islands. If weather conditions allow, we will disembark on

Wreck Island, a remote barrier island owned and managed by the VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Program. There we may encounter flocks of dunlin,

sea ducks and other treasures. Please keep in mind, this trip is weather dependent and may be cancelled if conditions are deemed too dangerous. The decision to go or cancel

will be made by 5 pm the night before. Keep in mind temperatures and windchills are much colder on the water and bring a hat, gloves or mittens, a wind- or water-proof

outer layer and waterproof knee or hip boots for getting in and out of the boat. You are also strongly encouraged to bring sunscreen, sunglasses. Bring your favorite binoculars,

snacks and water and several spotting scopes. **Oyster Boat Ramp (Crumb Hill Road, Oyster, VA) | \$40**

Saturday, January 29 • 1-4pm

VIRGINIA BEACH NOTABLE TREES

12 & UP | Join Lynnhaven River Now's Captain Brent James

in visiting some of Virginia Beach's Notable Trees! While seeing these trees up close you will learn history of the property on which they reside, their approximate ages, as well as their sizes relative to the state and national champion

trees of that species. Meet at Princess Anne Recreation Center for transportation to locations. All experience levels welcome. It is recommended that you wear sturdy, waterproof footwear. **\$15**

Saturday, January 29 • 10am-2pm • PARC

Sunday, January 30 • 1-5pm • Brock Environmental Center

BLUE GOOSE WILDLIFE TRAM

ALL AGES | Adventure doesn't disappear in the winter!

The Blue Goose Wildlife Tram takes passengers through Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park. We observe wintering ducks, geese and swans, visit the cemetery of the historic community of Wash Woods

and discuss what makes this part of Virginia Beach a unique and exciting place. This trip includes an optional, one-mile hike. The tram is an open-air vehicle, please be prepared for the weather! **Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (4005 Sandpiper Road) | \$15**

Saturday, January 29 • 1-5pm

WHALES WATCHING BOAT TRIP

ALL AGES | Join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science

Center, the longest running and most experienced whale watching entity in Virginia, in an immersive encounter with some of the ocean's most magnificent creatures. Specialized

SYSTEM

educators will share a program built upon the Aquarium's scientific research and almost three decades of experience

connecting guests with the area's marine mammal visitors. Trips take place on a spacious and stable catamaran that

boasts one of the most comfortable rides in Virginia Beach, and has been outfitted especially for conducting dolphin

& whale watching trips. Experience spectacular views from the outdoor covered seating areas, or from cushioned

seats inside a heated cabin. This ~2.5 hour adventure is an exploration in search of whales, dolphins, seals, and seabirds. Marine mammal sightings are not guaranteed.

Meets at Virginia Aquarium Dock (17 General Booth Blvd.) (17 General Booth Blvd.) All experience levels welcome. **Virginia Aquarium Dock**

(717 General Booth Blvd.) | \$28: ages 12 & up, \$23: ages

Landing State Park Trail Center (2500 Shore Dr.) | \$5

Saturday, January 29 • 2pm - 4pm

Sunday, January 30 • 1pm-3pm

BACK BAY/FAISE CAPE TERRA-GATOR AND TRAM TOUR

ALL AGES | Take a scenic tram ride through Back Bay

National Wildlife Refuge and False Cape State Park to the site of the historic Wash Woods community in what is now False Cape State Park. Hike the one-mile round-trip trail to the historical site, where a church steeple and cemetery remain. Ride back along the remote beach observing shorebirds and perhaps whales while riding in our unique

beach transporter, the Terra-Gator. All experience levels welcome. **Meet at Princess Anne Recreation Center for transportation to location. | \$15**

Saturday, January 29 • 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

OWL PROWL

10 & UP | Explore the night-time woods looking and

listening for their nocturnal hunters. Great horned, barred and screech owls and other creatures of the night are all possibilities for these trips. Look up and keep your ears open as we discover what life is like for an owl and learn more about the starry skies above. All experience levels welcome. **Meet at location. | \$10**

Saturday, January 29

• **Great Neck Park** (2513 Shorehaven Dr.)

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

• **First Landing State Park** (2500 Shore Drive) meet at Trail

Center

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

• **Great Neck Park** (2513 Shorehaven Dr.)

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Center

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

